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82269-3  
Patents

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Serial Number: 09/475,308  
Group Art Unit: 2666  
Confirmation No.: 6190  
Examiner: Frank Duong  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENCODING A  
PLURALITY OF PRE-DEFINED CODES INTO A  
SEARCH KEY AND FOR LOCATING A LONGEST  
MATCHING PRE-DEFINED CODE  
Filing Date: December 30, 1999  
Inventors: Delfin Y. Montuno; James Aweya  
Agent's ref: 82269-3

January 24, 2005

U.S. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Attn: Ervin Dingle, Phone 571-272-3210  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
United States

VIA FACSIMILE ONLY

Dear Sir:

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. 571-273-0025 on January 24, 2005.*

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicant respectfully requests that the following amendments be made to the above identified application:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.